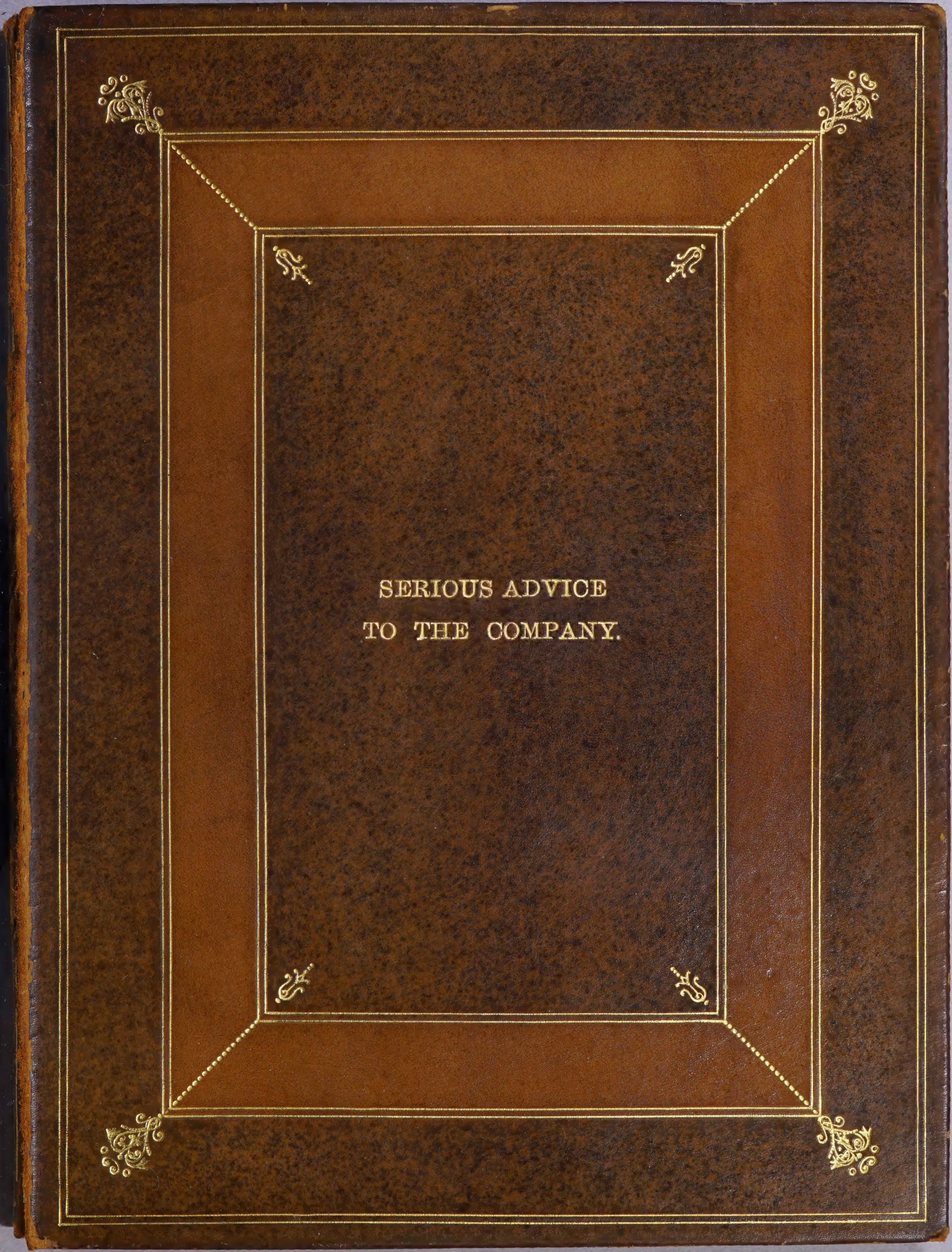
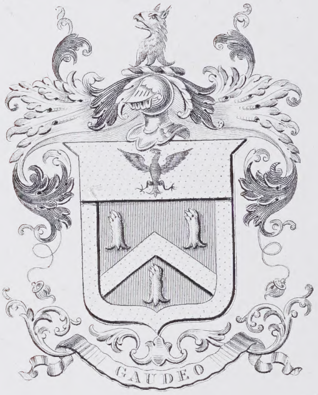


SERIOUS ADVICE
TO THE COMPANY.



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BINDERS, GREENOCK

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A
PROPOSAL
For Remeeding our Exceſſive
LUXURY.

THE promoving of our Trade, and amending of our Coin, will not much increaſe our Stocks, untill we amend our Manners; For if Luxurie bring in more Goods than by our Native product and induſtrie we export; And conſequently if we ſend out more Money to Buy, then we bring in of Money for what we Sell, our Money at long run muſt fail, and by how much more Money is ſent out in Over Ballance to what's brought in; ſo much ſooner ſhall we be Exhauſted, and Trade with thoſe who take much money from us, and return little money to us, cannot make us Richer in money: And if the goods Bought by us, be ſuch as are bought with money, and not obtained by return of our export, and yet are conſumed with us; So as that we do not Improve them in ſuch manner, as either by ſending the Imported Goods out again, to ſome place which either for their Goods or their Effects, ſhall return us profite, then it's plain we become Poorer by Buying or Importing of ſuch Goods: But if we ſend out

our

our Money to Buy Superfluities, that is to ſay Goods which are of no uſe, but what is Vain or Luxurious; That muſt be of all Trading the moſt Hurtfull to us.

1mo. *Therefore in the firſt and chief place, let Us by a ſolid well digeſted Sumptuary* Law, *prohibite the Wearing, Eating or Drinking of theſe Things which foſter Vanity and Luxury, yet ſo, as a moderate Uſe may be allowed even above Neceſſities, and not to fall ſhort of Decency; taking this always along, that we are a Remote People, few Strangers come among us, and fewer yet of theſe, are very conſiderable in Quality or Knowledge; And amongſt our ſelves, what all will and uſe becomes (in that) Decent.*

2do. *That theſe things which are uſed only for Decency may not be imported, if they can be made at Home.*

3tio. *That ſuch ſuperfluous things as can be made at Home, and of Homebred Matterials may be allowed in Uſe; That ſo the Vain Rich Perſon may ſupport the poor one? For better it is to give Money to a poor one, for any kind of Work on Native Subject, than to give Money to them for Begging.*

4to. *That the* Export *of all Native Goods be encouraged, and all Encouragement given to Manufacture, even of Superfluous Goods.*

5to. *All this will be the more effectual, if the Nation come to a conſtant Faſhion in Cloathing, and that one be preſcribed with ſuteable Diſtinctions.*

From theſe Premiſſes, *theſe Corellaries offer themſelves.*

1mo. *That Trade to every* Place *in* England *is of Advantage,* London *excepted; And principally, the* Engliſh *Cloaths and Stuffs, Stockings, Blankets, and indeed of all Woollen Work, except Flannen, is to be forbid.*

2do.

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2do. *That Trade with* France *is hurtful, Eſpecially if they allow not our Fiſh, Woollen Manufacture, and Coals to be imported to them.*

3tio. *That Trade with* Spain *is profitable.*

4to. *That all Import of all Silk Stuffs be prohibited.*

5to. *That all Silk Stuffs made in* Scotland, *be allowed, the like of Labes, Points, Frienges, Gloves, Shoes, Boots, Sadles, Matts, and all made Work of Iron or Wood, excepting Anchors, Cannon, Fuſies, Chimney-backs, Sawes.*

6to. *Since it would be of conſiderable Loſs for Perſons already pravided, to caſt away their old Cloths, and of new to make others; That   Years be allowed for wearing what's now already mnde; And if needs be, That Inventars be made thereof, before ſome inferiour Judge in Burgh and Land, ſince ſecurity againſt making Cloths of new import, is of grtat importance.*

And for the better furniſhing our ſelves with Clothing at home without Importing Woollen Cloth or Stuffs from Abroad, and for helping us to encreaſe or Export, thereby to advance our National Stock, and for recovering of the great loſs we have had, by the ſtarving of ſo many Thouſands during the late Dearth, who died for want of Food, and wanted Food for want of Work, and wanted Work for want of Wooll; By Exportation of Wooll theſe ſeveral years contrar to the Tenor of our good Laws, and the many Proclamations iſſued out conform thereto. That a Law may be paſt, which will effectually ſet a ſtop to the Exportation of Scots *Wooll and Yearn of all kinds.*

And ſince all the good Laws which have been made, or may be made in the Regulations for Export or Import for the Nations

good

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good are rendered illuſorie by the Tackſ-men and Farmers of the Cuſtoms; Who for their own profit ſuffer theſe Goods to be Imported, which are forbid to be imported, and do exact leſs Cuſtom and Excyſe than is impoſed by Law *on theſe Species of Goods, which are hurtful to the Nation; And thereby all our good Laws and deſigns of the Government for the good of the People are altogether fruſtrated, our Trade diverted to a wrong Channel, and the Nation Depauperat. It is propoſed for remedy, that a* Law *be made, Inhibiting all Farming of Caſtom and* Excyſe, *for the Future: And that a moderat inquiry be made into the bygone Tranſgreſſions, at leaſt ſince the Month of*

D
Scott
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